

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Discussion Between Boris Kraigher
and Monsignor Miha Toros

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Vatican recently appointed Monsignor Miha Toros to head the Apostolic Administration of that part of the Archdiocese of Gorizia which is located in Yugoslavia. He was directed to establish the seat of the diocese in Nova Gorica. Prior to this appointment, Monsignor Toros had served as Apostolic Administrator of both the Nova Gorica and Parenzo Diocese, with headquarters in the latter. Monsignor Nezic, a Croat about 38 years old, has been nominated as successor to Toros in the Parenzo Diocese.
2. On or about 9 September 1950, after having assumed his duties in Nova Gorica, Monsignor Toros made a courtesy call on Boris Kraigher, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, and was cordially received. The two men discussed Church-State relations, State assistance to the Church, and the plight of the Slovene clergy in Italy.

3. [REDACTED] Recently an article appeared in Messaggero Veneto attacking Slovene priests in the Gorizia area of Italy, many of whom are political refugees from the Tito regime. The article denounced them as Slovene nationalists and claimed that they comprised a fifth column intent on undermining Italian Government policy. [REDACTED] if the Italian authorities were not directly responsible for newspaper attacks of this calibre, in all probability they encouraged anti-Slovene press propaganda.

Italian authorities have given active support to a campaign to hinder Slovene priests in carrying out their religious missions, particularly in the Gorizia and Udine areas. [REDACTED] one case in which the prefect of Gorizia opposed the nomination of Don Pavlin to the Stanzdrez (Sant'Andrea) parish near Gorizia, proffering as a valid excuse the pretext that Pavlin was an opotee.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. [REDACTED] the Slovene Republic would make a grant to the Archdiocese of Nova Gorica of four million dinars, two million of which were to be allotted to the construction and maintainance of two buildings: one a new Slovene seminary which is to be opened in Sveti Kriz na Vipavskem, and the other a monastery in Nova Gorica to be used as the seat of Monsignor Toros diocese.

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6. Upon learning of the invitation to Monsignor Novak, Slovene Christian Social leaders in Gorizia and Trieste [REDACTED] would advise Monsignor Novak merely to acknowledge receipt and express his appreciation. These leaders realize that Slovene priests are badly needed in Slovenia, but they will advise Monsignor Novak, through Engelbert Besednjak, that Slovene priests should remain in Italy, unless conditions become intolerable, because they are more important to the Slovene cause in the struggle for minority rights with the Italian authorities.

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[REDACTED] Comment: In the past, Slovene priests who had fled from Yugoslavia as opponents of the Tito regime were offered the privilege of returning to Yugoslavia only on the condition that they publically renounce their previous attacks on the Tito regime and sign an oath of allegiance to the Government.

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